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ISRAEL: PRIME MINISTER MEIR IS EXPECTED SOON TO ANNOUNCE HER WILLINGNESS TO CONTINUE IN OFFICE AFTER THE FALL ELECTIONS.

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ISRAELI POLITICIANS AGREE THAT MRS. MEIR WOULD LIKE TO RETIRE FROM PUBLIC LIFE. SHE IS CONCERNED THAT HER HEALTH MIGHT DETERIORATE AND AFFECT HER PERFORMANCE IN OFFICE, AND SHE WOULD LIKE TO RESPOND TO HER FAMILY'S PLEAS TO QUIT. THIS PERSONAL DESIRE, HOWERS, IS OUTWEIGHED BY A DEEPER CONCERN OVER THE EFFECTS OF HER RETIREMENT ON THE LABOR PARTY.

FINANCE MINISTER SAPIR AND DEFENSE MINISTER
DAYAN--TWO PARTY RIVALS AND POTENTIAL SUCCESSORS
TO THE PREMIERSHIP--HAVE SERIOUS POLICY DIFFERENCES.
HER ADVISERS AND FRIENDS ARE WARNING HER THAT THE
LOSS OF HER LEADERSHIP WOULD BE DISASTROUS FOR THE
PARTY. THUS, ALTHOUGH HER PERSONAL REASONS STILL
COULD RESULT IN A DECISION TO RETIRE, SHE IS NOT
EXPECTED TO RISK THE POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES OF INTRAPARTY SQUABBLING AND PARTY LOSSES IN THE OCTOBER
ELECTIONS.

THE MAJOR OFFICE SEEKERS HAVE INCREASINGLY
BEEN PLACING THEIR VIEWS BEFORE THE ELECTORATE IN
RECENT WEEKS. A MEIR DECISION TO STAY ON WILL TAKE
MUCH OF THE RING OUT OF THEIR FUTURE CAMPAIGN
RHETORIC.

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